



5/18/04

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 647 (Patterson)

SB 647 would define the term “willful” violation of MIOSHA regulations. The House Committee on Employment Relations, Training and Safety adopted one amendment (creating a substitute) that would prohibit the Department of Labor and Economic Growth and any board or commission created under MIOSHA from promulgating any rules regarding workplace ergonomics.

Oppose: Mi. State AFL-CIO, UAW International, SEIU -- By defining the term "willful" narrowly and laying out strict criteria for determining that a violation was willful, the bill would make it more difficult for MIOSHA to conclude that a violation was "willful". As a result, businesses that continue to expose their employees to possible harm could be awarded State contracts they may not otherwise receive.

- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 647 [RC 299: 21 yes (GOP), 13 no]. Immediate Effect was not given to the bill [RC 300: 21 yes (GOP), 13 no]. Immediate Effect was also denied twice without a record roll call vote.

HB 5500 (Casperson)

HB 5500 would permit on-premises licensees to sell alcoholic liquor beginning 12 Noon (EST) on Sunday in the Upper Peninsula counties of Dickinson, Gogebic, Iron, and Menominee. This would allow bars and restaurants in the four counties in the U.P. that are on Central time to sell alcoholic liquor at 11:00 AM on Sunday in an effort to allow them to compete with establishments in Wisconsin and neighbors in Michigan's Eastern Time Zone.

- The Senate concurred with the House changes to HB 5500 [RC 301: 34 yes, 0 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 296 (Gilbert)

Senate Bill 296 would require a health insurance policy or certificate to provide for direct payment to any provider of covered medical transportation services (ambulance), or provide for joint payments to the insured and the (medical transportation) provider, if the provider had not received payment from any other source.

Support: MI Association of Ambulance Services.

Oppose: General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Detroit Chamber of Commerce, MI State AFL-CIO, UAW, Economic Alliance of MI, BCBSM, Daimler Chrysler, OFIS, MI Manufacturers Assn., Small Business Assn., MI Chamber of Commerce – SB 296 would unfairly shift the burden of loss from ambulance companies to individual patients and their families, who do not have the option of shopping for the best or the least expensive transportation during a medical emergency.

- SB 296 passed [RC 302: 34 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 151 (CLARKE)

SB 151 would provide defendants before a court with an additional bail option. If the court allows for the posting of a 10% deposit bond, the defendant would be allowed to post bail by a surety bond in an amount equal to 1/4th of the full bail amount. For example, if the court ordered a \$10,000 bond, under current law at 10%, the defendant would have to pay \$1,000 to be released. Under this bill, the defendant would have the option of paying \$250 and the bonding agency would pay \$2,500 (1/4th of the full bail amount) to the court.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 151 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 5105 (Van Regenmorter)

HB 5105 would revise provisions pertaining to armed robbery, carjacking, and unarmed robbery. The crime of armed robbery would be expanded to include a person who, in the course of engaging in the proscribed conduct, represented orally or otherwise that he or she was in possession of a dangerous weapon. Robbery would now include if force or violence is used to retain possession of the stolen property or to escape apprehension even if force was not used initially to take the property.

- HB 5105 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

RESOLUTIONS

SR 171 (Patterson)

SCR 35 (Stamas)

SR 171 and SCR 35 memorialize the Congress of the United States and the federal government to work with Michigan officials to align the ownership of mineral rights and surface rights on state and federal lands in Michigan and to express our intent to take actions to achieve this goal.

- SR 171 was adopted [no RC].
- SCR 35 was adopted [no RC].

SR 228 (Gilbert)

SR 228 calls on the Governor to work with the Premier of Ontario to create a Michigan-Ontario commission on border-crossing streamlining and safety.

- SR 228 was adopted [no RC].